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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General of the
World Conference on Human Rights

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The forth session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights will be opened by the Secretary-General of the World Conference, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The session is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 19 to 30 April 1993, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/122.

Item 2. Election of officers and adoption of the rules of procedure

2. It may be recalled that the Preparatory Committee at its first session adopted, as its own rules of procedure, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

3. In accordance with those rules the Preparatory Committee is called upon to elect a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

4. The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference, is based on the decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth, forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions and is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/55.

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Item 4. Organization of work

5. In view of the limited time available to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, the Committee may wish to establish time-limits on the length and/or number of statements made at the meeting. The Committee may also wish to encourage participants to make joint statements, to the extent possible, as well as statements addressed to more than one item of the agenda.

6. The Committee may wish to consider the need to set up working groups to address specific agenda items, in particular item 7 of its agenda. Such groups may meet simultaneously if necessary.

Item 5. Status of preparation of publications, studies and documents for the World Conference

7. It will be recalled that in its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare the following documentation as soon as possible and to report to the Preparatory Committee on the progress made on: (a) a limited number of short, analytical and action-oriented studies on the issues referred to in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 and in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, in particular paragraph 2 of the annex thereto, and also bearing in mind documentation prepared for and statements made at the first session of the Preparatory Committee; (b) reports of meetings organized under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155; (c) a reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights or related aspects; (d) an update of the publication United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights; and (e) an update of the publications Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments.

8. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to its decision PC.2/4, entitled "Publications", in which the Preparatory Committee took note of the progress achieved in the development of a reference guide to United Nations studies and reports on human rights and related aspects, and in updating the publications United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments.

9. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to its decision PC.2/6, entitled "Studies and documentation". The Preparatory Committee also considered this question at its third session. In this regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraph 72 of the report of Committee at its third session (A/CONF.157/PC/54), concerning the preparation of studies called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991 and further elaborated in documents A/CONF.157/PC/20, 25, 29, 34 and 36. These studies will be available to the Committee (A/CONF.157/PC/60 and Add.1-6).

10. In addition, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 46/116 and subsequently followed up by the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights, the specialized agencies and concerned United Nations bodies have undertaken reviews and submitted recommendations on

the World Conference and its preparation. These will be available to the Committee (A/CONF.157/PC/61 and Add.1-13).

11. With respect to the same request, the Committee will also have before it the reviews and recommendations on the World Conference and its preparation made by other United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights (A/CONF.157/PC/62 and Add.1-7).

12. In addition, a report by the Secretary-General on other contributions relating to the World Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/63 and Add.1-4) and a report by the Secretary-General on the status of publications (A/CONF.157/PC/64) will be available.

Item 6. Report on other meetings and activities

13. The attention of the Preparatory Committees is drawn to its decision PC.2/3, entitled "Other meetings related to the preparatory process of the World Conference", in which the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to prepare an analytic compilation of the recommendations, in extenso, of the meetings referred to in his report (A/CONF.157/PC/22) and of any other meetings which might be held under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/155, and to submit an initial analytic compilation to the Preparatory Committee at its third session and a final updated compilation to the Committee at its fourth session. Such a compilation is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/66. A list of other meetings related to the preparatory process of the Conference is contained in document A/CONF.157/PC/65.

Item 7. Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on public information activities relating to the World Conference and its preparatory process

14. It will be recalled that, in its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly decided that the Secretary-General should give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system.

15. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to is decision PC/2/2, entitled "Public information activities", in which the Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the public information programme and information coverage of the World Conference and its preparatory process (A/CONF.157/PC/17) and urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure coverage of the regional meetings.

16. The Preparatory Committee at its fourth session will have before it document A/CONF.157/PC/67 containing a comprehensive report on public information activities relating to the World Conference and its preparatory process, including coverage of the regional meetings in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia.

Item 8. Regional meetings

17. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116, decided that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of its resolution 45/155, regional meetings should be convened for each region that so desired, within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions, and that those meetings should be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference.

18. The Secretary-General of the Conference had been notified of the desire of the African Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at Tunis from 2 to 6 November 1992; of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at San José from 18 to 22 January 1993 and of the Asian Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok from 29 March to 2 April 1993. The attention of the Committee is drawn to document A/CONF.157/PC/68 containing the report of the Secretary-General on regional meetings, as well as documents A/CONF.157/AFRM/14-A/CONF.157/PC/57, A/CONF.157/LACRM/15-A/CONF.157/PC/58 and A/CONF.157/ASRM/...-A/CONF.157/PC/59 containing the reports of the above mentioned regional meetings.

19. The Committee will also have before it under this item a letter from the Government of Costa Rica (A/CONF.157/PC/56).

Item 9. Consideration of the final outcome of the World Conference, taking into consideration the preparatory work and conclusions of the regional meetings

20. The attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraph 7 (a) (ii) of General Assembly resolution 47/122 entitled "World Conference on Human Rights", in which the Assembly decided that the question of the final outcome of the World Conference should be taken up by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, taking into consideration, inter alia, the preparatory work and conclusions of the regional meetings held at Tunis, San José and Bangkok.

21. The Committee may therefore wish to take up consideration of this item through the establishment, if considered necessary, of a working group on this question.

Item 10 Status of the voluntary fund to enable participation of representatives of least developed countries in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself

22. It will be recalled that, further to General Assembly resolution 45/155 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30, a voluntary fund was established to meet the costs of participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the preparatory process and the World Conference itself.

23. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolutions 46/116 and 47/122 in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of such

participation, and requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in that regard.

24. The attention of the preparatory Committee is also drawn to its decision PC.2/1, entitled "Participation of representatives of least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and the preparatory process", in which the Committee decided that the criteria for the administration of the voluntary fund be modified to provide a daily subsistence allowance for one representative from each such country, in addition to defraying their costs of travel; and further decided to:

(a) Reiterate its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the additional costs associated with this decision; and

(b) Express its appreciation to those States that have already contributed to this fund.

25. The Preparatory Committee has before it document A/CONF.157/PC/69 on the status of the voluntary fund.

Item 11. Report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparation of the World Conference

26. In accordance with the annex to General Assembly resolution 37/14B, entitled "Pattern of Conferences", containing the "Guidelines on Secretariat organization for United Nations special conferences", the attention of the Committee is drawn to document A/CONF.157/PC/70 containing the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparation of the World Conference.

Item 12. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

27. At the conclusion of is fourth session, the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report for submission to the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna from 14-25 June 1993.